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Newcomers found to manage a hall under threat of closure

Claire Pearman is welcomed by Peter Goode as a committee member, watched by, from left, committee member and badminton hirer Alan Flemming, member and karate hirer Peter Evans, Weight Watchers hirer Rachel Keeler and dancing school boss Jo Wootton; right, Chris Gaynor, left, and Mr Goode making their help plea

VOLUNTEERS SAVE CENTRE

Kieran Davey
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A COMMUNITY centre used by almost 700 people a week can now remain open, after a successful appeal in the *Banbury Cake* for volunteers to help run it.

Peter Goode and Chris Gaynor had managed Hanwell Fields Community Centre in Rotary Way for nine years, but announced in 2013 they would step down.

After two years, no volunteer to run the centre had come forward and the pair said it would be decided at the annual meeting, on September 14, whether the facility would have to close.

But after the *Banbury Cake* reported that the future of the centre was in doubt, a group of volunteers came forward to take on the management of the centre association.

Mr Goode, 71, who lives on the Hanwell Fields estate, had said he feared the worst if no volunteer was found.

But after the meeting, he said: "We had a very good turnout from people in the community.

"We had hoped for good news after all the publicity we had and had encouraged parents and users of the centre to come to the meeting."

About 60 people attended, including 40 residents from the estate, along with Cherwell District Council officers, local councillors and other regular users.

A new general management committee was formed with 11 members, including nine residents and two centre users.

The centre's constitution had to be changed to form the new committee, as previously people not living on the estate were banned from managing the centre.

The new committee is due to meet on Tuesday, October 6, for members' roles to be defined.

Centre owner Cherwell District Council leases it to the association. A deal was struck with Hanwell Fields Primary School last year, so it could manage bookings and building maintenance.

Under the lease, the association must retain management of the hall, including organising staff, charges and opening times.

Mr Goode, who worked at Kraft Foods until 10 years ago, has previously volunteered as a street pastor and in a food bank.

He said: "I have been greatly encouraged that people have picked up the baton. If we had to close, there would be a lot of disappointed people and all these organisations who use the centre would have to find another venue.

"I'd like to thank the *Banbury Cake* for featuring our plight, as it has helped in securing the future operation of the community centre."

Volunteer Jo Trinder, a Hanwell Fields resident, joined the committee after speaking to Mr Gaynor about the centre.

She said: "The reason I joined was, when living on an estate, you don't want to see these places disappear, as they are well used by people round here and bring in a lot of business.

"I don't use the centre myself, but my daughter regularly goes to Scouts there and it's always something I can see out of my bedroom window."

Mr Goode will now take on the position of auditor for the centre, while Mr Gaynor will become a trustee.

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Watchdogs fearful over town's 14 care beds

HEALTH leaders cannot take it on blind faith that changes to how community hospitals are run are in the best interests of patients.

That was the message from the county health overview and scrutiny committee in a discussion on the future of 14 intermediate care beds in Chipping Norton.

The county council's cabinet approved a two-question consultation over the future of the unit when it emerged funding for the management arrangement between Oxford Health Foundation Trust and the Orders of St John Care Trust (OSJCT) will run out in 2016.

Residents were outraged when they were initially offered the choice of keeping the unit run by the OSJCT or losing it altogether.

However, county leaders then agreed to offer the choice between the OSJCT or having the intermediate care provided in patients' homes.

But Witney councillor Laura Price said health leaders had to iron out what benefits they expected for patients with the options.

She told the committee: "Unless we can be presented with something really clear about what outcomes you're expecting, then the panel are going to struggle to measure against that.

"It's not appropriate to ask us to put complete blind faith in the fact clinicians want the best for patients."

The consultation runs from October 5 to December 7 and its findings will go to cabinet on January 26.

Parents march on County Hall as supporters rush to support online petition

Mum calls for PM to save county children's centres

Parents meet up to march on County Hall in Oxford, as part of their latest protest about the proposed closure of children's centres across the whole of Oxfordshire

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PARENTS made emotional appeals for a rethink of proposals to close children's centres during a packed meeting at Oxford's County Hall.

Mothers and fathers last week lined up to tell councillors their personal stories and why the centres – which support families of children under five – were so important to them.

It followed a protest outside by about 100 people. There was applause after each speaker and councillors praised them afterwards for their courage.

But senior figures insisted the closures were the only way to save £6m, as part of wider savings of £88m that still need to be made by 2018/19.

The proposals set to be consulted on would mean all 44 of Oxfordshire's children's centres and its seven early intervention hubs are replaced with eight "family and resource centres".

Banbury mother-of-two Jill Huish, a leader of the Save Oxfordshire's Children's Centres campaign, called on Prime Minister and Witney MP David Cameron to intervene.

And an online petition, launched last week, got almost 2,000 signatures in its first few hours.

Mother-of-one Claire El Mouden, a prize-winning Oxford University researcher, tearfully told councillors how a children's centre and the other mums she had met there became a vital support network after she gave birth.

She said: "I was so stressed and exhausted and felt overwhelming guilt, but I left feeling so much lighter."

Yan Wong, a governor of Grandpont Children's Centre in Oxford, said the council "should be lobbying the government with other councils".

Melinda Tilley, county council cabinet member for children, education and families, said: "It was hard listening to some of those stories but those people are very brave for doing what they did and I would urge people to respond to our consultation."

Outdoors fan vicar dies

THE Rev Edward Coombs, Vicar of St Paul's in Banbury, has died, age 49.

Described as "gentle and committed" and a "lover of the great outdoors", he died on September 12, after a long battle with the blood cancer lymphoma.

A thanksgiving service will be held tomorrow at 2pm, at St Paul's.

Mr Coombs had worked as a vicar in Banbury for nearly 15 years, moving to St Paul's in 2001. He lived in the Bretch Hill vicarage with his wife of 18 years, Annabelle. The couple have three children, two girls and a boy.

Mr Coombs, *pictured*, was born on April 3, 1966, to Susan and Michael. His father died several years ago. He had one older brother, Richard, also a vicar.

He had grown up in Buckingham and went to nearby Stowe School, before studying geology at the University of Bristol. On leaving, he spent a short time as a surveyor before beginning ordination training at Durham University.

He took a post as a curate in Edinburgh, then at Dagenham Parish Church in Essex before moving on to Banbury.

Parishioners described Mr Coombs as a very gentle, loving man who was committed to preaching about Jesus. His passions were walking, being outside and mountain trekking.

With a degree in geology, he loved being outdoors and often did mountain walks, notably Cadair Idris in Snowdonia.

Jobs fair proves popular as 300 visitors turn out

MORE than 300 jobseekers turned up at this year's second Banbury Job Fair.

The Cherwell District Council event, at the town hall last Tuesday, attracted 36 employers and organisations.

Visitors could find out about job openings and what employers look for in recruits.

The council's lead member for estates and economy, Norman Bolster, said: "We know from the large number of attendees, and the comments we get back after the fair, that these events are both popular and useful."

Pupils update school in 'eye-opening' India trip

Mountainous region students get equipment and mural as teens visit

Kieran Davey
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SIXTH-form students from Banbury have returned from a once-in-a-lifetime summer trip to India, during which they revamped a school in the mountains.

A total of seven Banbury Academy pupils, aged 17 and 18, spent three weeks in northern India volunteering at a primary school and then attempting the eight-day Hampta Pass trek in the Himalayas mountain range.

Geography teacher Rebecca Welchman was joined by Chris Macey, Sam Cross, Kim Spijkers-Shaw, Georgia England, India Tyson, Lewis Caiger and Hannah Harding.

Money was raised for the trip by holding car washes, bag packing sessions and fundraising appeals at parents evenings.

The expedition, during July and August, was organised as part of World Challenge, which provides opportunities for student-led expeditions to build leadership skills and make young people more aware of the world around them.

Miss Harding, 17, said: "The whole trip was a really eye-opening experience. It was really nice to see how other cultures live, but it wasn't at all what I expected."

Students from the Ruskin Road school flew out from Heathrow to Delhi before travelling to the mountainous northern town of Patlikuhal to volunteer at the Leegan Government School.

While they were at the school, which has 18 pupils, the students donated sports equipment, painted a mural on the school wall and replaced windows which had been damaged.

The group then climbed the 4,250m tall Hampta Pass in Himachal, which involved walking for up to six hours each day and crossing over a number of ice glaciers.

Miss Harding said: "It was really hard work – some people found it more difficult than others – but the whole journey was just beautiful."

To finish the journey they visited an elephant sanctuary in Jaipur and the Taj Mahal in Agra.

School leader Miss Welchman said: "The whole group was fantastic to travel with.

"I was really impressed with how they responded to the challenges and they dealt with the responsibility really well.

"This trip was all about finding the pupils' strengths and for them to find out about themselves at the same time."

At the Taj Mahal, from left, leader Rebecca Welchman, Chris Macey, Sam Cross, Kim Spijkers-Shaw, Georgia England, India Tyson, Lewis Caiger and Hannah Harding; below, a mural for Leegan Government School

Recycling dates

OXON: The county's household waste recycling centres will be open late tonight, for the last time this year.

All the centres will shut at 8pm today, but then opening hours will be 8am to 5pm, seven days a week.

All sites will close at 3pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and all day on Christmas Day and Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

For more information, visit oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste

Law firm honoured

N OXON: A law practice has won Regional Conveyancing Firm of the Year for the third time at a national awards ceremony.

Brethertons legal services – which has offices in Bicester and Banbury – was given the title at the national Law Firm Services (LFS) Conveyancing Awards.

The Bicester office managing partner, Steven Neasham, said: "I am delighted that we have been acknowledged for our conveyancing expertise."

Second Poundland

BANBURY: Poundland has announced plans to open its second store in the town before the end of the year.

Retail director Tim McDonnell said: "Poundland has grown significantly over the past 12 months."

Applications for jobs can be found at poundlandcareers.co.uk.

M&S opening date

BANBURY: Marks & Spencer will open its new store on October 29, as part of the new Banbury Gateway shopping centre in Wildmere Road.

There will be fashion, a food section and a 200-seat cafe. About 190 jobs have been created.

New approach to tackling male suicide

PUBS, football grounds, and even comedy clubs will be called on to help in a new drive tackling male suicide in the county.

Mental health managers have launched a £10,000 awareness campaign to tackle the much higher suicide rates seen with men than women, often put down to men not feeling able to seek help.

The most recent figures on suicide in Oxfordshire show that 34 men took their lives in 2013, but only 10 women.

Oxfordshire's mental health care provider has now decided to get its message out to men in pubs, clubs and football grounds.

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, which operates the Warneford Hospital and co-ordinates mental health treatment, has announced it is to join the national Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM).

It intends to target places where a lot of men meet, advertise the help available and hold events on tackling mental illness.

The lead nurse for suicide prevention, Karen Lascalles, said: "What we need to understand is how best we can reach our male population.

Jacky Sadones, of the Old Bookbinders Ale House in Jericho, with a picture of her late son, Rishi Mullett-Sadones

"Nationally and globally, suicides are much higher in men. Across the UK the average is 78 per cent more than women.

"Traditionally, this is because men don't speak their mind and keep their feelings bottled up. In Oxford, we're committed to getting the message out in more unorthodox ways.

"We need to go out and target people who don't know that there is help."

Suicide prevention project facilitator Matt Williams has begun speaking in pubs, music venues and comedy clubs about new ways CALM can get its message across.

The 43-year-old said: "We're very much in the planning stage of things at the moment, but I am very excited by what we can do."

Ideas range from helpline details on beermats to people talking about mental health services in sports clubs or holding a concert highlighting depression.

Jacky Sadones, whose son Rishi Mullett-Sadones committed suicide aged 20 in 2011, said it was a good idea in principle.

But the 55-year-old landlady of Jericho's Old Bookbinders Ale House said: "I don't know whether I can see men discussing depression over a pint in a pub, but maybe having the advertising might make people think when they're away from it."

The CALM Zone helpline operates 5am to midnight on 0800 585858. See thecalmzone.net.

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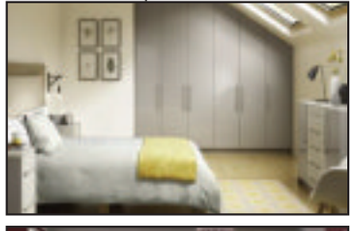

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Dressed up in denim

Pupils put on jeans for charity, in bid to support young people affected by genetic conditions

Kieran Davey
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CHILDREN swapped their school uniforms for denim to support young people with inherited medical conditions.

St John's Priory School in Banbury held a Jeans for Genes day last Friday to raise money for Genetic Disorders UK.

Pupils were able to donate £1 each in exchange for being allowed to wear jeans to school for the day.

Their dressed-down efforts raised about £100 for the charity, which offers support and information to those affected by disorders.

The headmistress at the St John's Road independent school, Tracey Wilson, said: "Life at the Priory is so varied and creative for our children.

"They love having these special days where they get to have fun.

"Jeans for Genes day encourages understanding and acceptance of the differences between us, and the jeans the children wear are a reminder of the genes they're raising money for."

A customised jeans competition was also held, which was later judged by Mrs Penn and art teacher Alexander Smith.

According to Genetic Disorders UK, about one in 25 children is affected by a genetic disorder. There are more than 6,000 diagnosed disorders in the UK.

Some of the primary children at St John's Priory School in Banbury, with headmistress Tracey Wilson, holding their customised jeans created for the charity fundraising day

The charity has organised the national Jeans for Genes day for the last 20 years.

Money collected from the fundraising event is awarded in grants to support groups who look after children with genetic disorders.

The school is holding an open morning tomorrow, from 10am to noon, for parents to meet teachers and staff.

Ayckbourn at Christmas

WITH three months to Christmas, actors in Banbury are getting into the festive spirit early for their next production.

Banbury Cross Players' production of Alan Ayckbourn comedy *Absurd Person Singular*, at the Mill Arts Centre next month, follows three couples on successive Christmases.

The pairs, all from different social classes, are seen switching places in society.

Head of marketing Linda Shaw said: "The play is about relationships changing and how people can move both upwards and downwards in society. Each act takes place in a kitchen, which means we have had to create three kitchen sets."

The play runs from October 21 to 24, at 7.45pm daily. Tickets are £10 from the Mill or themillartscentre.co.uk

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'Threat to kill' man cleared

Defendant attacked by former girlfriend, crown court is told

Joe Gammie
jgammie@nqo.com

A PIPE fitter, who was accused of threatening to kill his girlfriend while throttling her into unconsciousness, has been acquitted of assault.

Benjamin Ellam held his head in his hands and rubbed his eyes dry as the jury of six men and six women delivered its verdict after six hours of deliberation.

Danielle Jones, a mother-of-one, had earlier told Oxford Crown Court a row erupted when she arrived home in Banbury with Ellam after a night out in February.

She said Ellam, also known as John Paul Hemming, accused her of wanting to sleep with other men. She told the jury he then attacked her, threatening to kill her while throttling her.

But 35-year-old Ellam claimed the row was because he would not add her as his girlfriend on Facebook and said she had made "snide comments" in the taxi home to Hardwick Park.

Ellam said that after going to bed, Ms Jones, who is no longer his girlfriend, pulled the covers off him and punched him in the face, so he tried to grab his belongings to flee the house.

But he said she followed him, grabbing him by the jacket and kicking him in the ribs. He claimed he had to push her away.

Ellam, who told the court he left the house with a blood-stained jacket and cuts to his face, said: "When I left the property I was exhausted. I had no energy left.

"I never meant for her to be hurt but I certainly did not want myself to

Panel of speakers to discuss town's future

FIRMS are being invited to take part in debates on Banbury's future.

BOBC Live 2015, on October 2 at Whately Hall, will include a panel discussion with six speakers.

The event, hosted by Simon Smith, of Wellers accountants, is from 9am to noon

John Madden, of First Line, Catherine Rohll, of Norbar Torque Tools, and Dickie Bird, of UKIP, will discuss EU membership.

Adrian Colwell, head of strategic planning at CDC, Neil Wild of Wild Property and Tim Tarby-Donald of Visit Banbury will talk about plans for the town.

Places are free for Chamber members, or £8 for others. To book, see bcoclive2015.eventbrite.co.uk.

Gold bus 'will add to visitors'

Stagecoach's Martin Sutton with a human statue who entertained shoppers at the launch of the S4 service

CHANGES to Stagecoach services increasing the frequency of buses coming into Banbury will bring more shoppers from Oxford into the town, according to a local councillor.

Last week, Stagecoach Oxfordshire unveiled its fleet of S4 Gold buses, which will travel between Banbury town centre and Magdalen Street in Oxford.

The company has invested £850,000 in the buses, which will go through Adderbury, Deddington and Kidlington.

Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon said he welcomed the service and hoped it would see visitor numbers to Banbury increase.

Mr Mallon added: "With Oxford's current traffic problems, shoppers might choose to travel to Banbury.

"Coming by bus brings them right to the heart of the town's main shopping area and only a short distance from the old town shopping streets that contain a wide variety of pubs, cafes and restaurants."

Castle Quay Shopping Centre spokeswoman Rebecca Deeley said: "Banbury has a lot to offer and we are really pleased to see that the bus service is recognising that.

"We regularly see visitors to the town and to our shopping centre, that have travelled quite a way."

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Canoe hero steers young

Gold winner says he would return to run sessions with club

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London 2012 gold medal winner Tim Baillie lines up with Cherwell Canoe Club members, from left, Johnny Taylor, Dan Mahoney, Billy Dean, Sam Smith, Glen Stevens, Sienna Hope-West, Ryan Taylor, Jack West, Lucie Upton and Jack Dean

CHILDREN at Cherwell Canoe Club got golden advice during a visit from an Olympic champion.

Tim Baillie, who took the gold medal in the C2 canoe slalom at London 2012 alongside his partner Etienne Stott, visited the club to do some tutoring and speak about his career.

The Aberdeenshire-born sportsman spent two hours with canoeists, talking about his experiences and how to attract more young people into sport.

Mr Baillie, 36, who retired from canoeing in January last year, was there in his role as a Sport England Sporting Champion.

He said: "It was a great club to visit and there was a really good atmosphere. If I'm invited back, I would really like the chance to run more sessions."

His visit was organised by Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire Sports Partnership, as part of Sport England's lottery-funded Sportivate Initiative.

The £56 million project was launched in 2011, to give young people the chance to discover a sport they love.

Cherwell Canoe Club chairwoman Tracie Collins said: "Tim was great with the children and they all had a lot of fun, which is important for a family-orientated club like ours."

Tim Baillie shows his gold medal to Sam Smith

The Olympic champ gives tips to club members

Indecent assault

BANBURY: Police said "justice was served" after a 76-year-old man was convicted of indecent assault.

Neville Feasey, of Yule Court, was found guilty of 13 counts of indecent assault at Oxford Crown Court, after a five-day trial. The offences relate to one female victim and are historic. Feasey was cleared of six counts of rape.

He was arrested on March 2 last year and charged on September 30, 2014.

Investigating officer, Det Con Rebecca McLeod said: "This is a brilliant result for the victim, who has lived with the memories of the abuse she suffered for more than 40 years."

Railway exhibit

BANBURY: Banbury and District Model Railway Club holds its annual model railway exhibition on Sunday at Banbury Academy in Ruskin Road. Entry is £5 for adults, £3 for children. The event runs from 10am to 5pm.

Attacked with bat

N OXON: Three men in masks walked into a North Newington property before one went upstairs and attacked two people with a baseball bat.

The attacker demanded money and the gang took cash and cigarettes.

The victims, men in their 20s, had facial injuries from the attack at 10.45pm last Tuesday. One was treated at the Horton Hospital.

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Forces families children get schools extra funds

Government will pay £300 pupil premium for families recently in the services

Five Acres Primary School, Ambrosden, this term has 100 new pupils, 80 of whom are from forces families

Andy Ffrench
affrench@nqo.com

SCHOOLS across Oxfordshire are getting extra Government funding to help them take pupils from forces families.

For the first time, the Government has extended the schools' £300 service pupil premium to include those who have been service children at any period during the previous four years.

Some 1,589 service children already entitle their schools to the funding, because their parents are serving in the forces.

Oxfordshire County Council was unable to say how many extra children would be entitled to the grant under the new system and announced it would reassess the total number of service pupils in January.

Five Acres Primary School in Ambrosden this term took in 80 new pupils from Army families, after a move of troops from Germany.

Headteacher Darrell Wood said there were a total of 100 newcomers, boosting numbers from 220 to 330, following the move of 1 Logistic Support Regiment from Gutersloh.

Another Army unit is expected to return from Germany next year, which could bring another 100 families, adding to the total again.

Mr Wood said: "In March, I was flown out by the Army to the camp in Germany, so I could meet a big group of parents, who all had lots of questions about their children getting a place at the school.

"We put a video on our website, made by our pupils, to give families based in Germany a child's view of the school.

"On the Wednesday before term, we opened only for the new arrivals from Germany and showed them around, because we would not have been able to integrate them all properly on the first day."

He added: "Once we are up to 420 pupils, we are at full capacity."

The service pupil premium is funding four new teaching assistants, bringing the total number of staff to 50.

Services families use schools around Oxfordshire military bases, including Dalton Barracks in Abingdon, Vauxhall Barracks in Didcot, RAF Benson, RAF Brize Norton, and Shrivenham Military Academy, near Faringdon.

Man sought over assault on child

POLICE have released an image of a man they want to speak to after a boy was sexually assaulted in a motorway services toilet.

The man that police want to question

The 10-year-old was at the Cherwell Services off the M40 at about 3pm on August 23 when he was molested over his clothing, police said.

After the force this weekend released CCTV footage of a man in a striped shirt, James Guinivan of Banbury CID, said: "We would like to speak to the man shown in the image, as he may have information which could help with police enquiries."

Witnesses who might know the man, or have any information about the case, can call police on 101 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

Library movie shows

MIDDLETON Cheney Library has lined up events for autumn, including a screening of *The Imitation Game*, with Benedict Cumberbatch, on October 8, at 7.30pm, and *The Theory of Everything* on November 12. Tickets are £6 for adults and £4 children.

Middleton Primary School pupils will visit on October 16 for the Big Draw, a celebration of art, film and music. Families can join in on October 17 and 18.

On October 29, artist Margot Bell will demonstrate woodblock printing.

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Shared 999 role proposal 'flawed'

Crime commissioner critical of Government's idea to combine fire and police chiefs position

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Anthony Stansfeld, says he has no desire to look after fire matters

Callum Keown
ckeown@nqo.com

PROPOSALS that could see the chief fire officer running Thames Valley Police have been criticised by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

The Home Office has begun a consultation over a joined-up approach between the three emergency services.

The plans mean the commissioner would oversee both the police and fire service and the chief constable – also in charge of both – could come from either service.

Thames Valley PCC Anthony Stansfeld said: "I am all for more co-operation between the emergency services, but we are quite some way from that.

"Unless it is mandated by central government, and unless the fire service are keen to do it, it won't happen. I have no intense desire to be in charge of the fire service."

The Home Office's plans would put a single chief officer in charge of both services.

This officer would act as a chief constable, but the position would be open to senior police and fire officers.

Mr Stansfeld said: "The role of a chief constable requires vast experience of the police force from the bottom to the top.

"You don't want a fire officer in charge of a complex murder or anti-terrorism and at the same time you don't want a police officer dealing with a major fire."

Since Christmas last year, the county fire and rescue service has been assisting South Central Ambulance Service with medical emergencies and is reimbursed for its work.

This year, all three services signed a memorandum to share buildings and offices. Mr Stansfeld said there were other ways to save money, such as this.

The public consultation runs until October 23.

Responses can be submitted at gov.uk or emailed to bluelights@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and James is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Bark in the Park

Sunday 27th September
Event opens at 1.30pm
People's Park

Join the Town Mayor and Mayoress, and their dogs, in celebrating dogs and other four legged pets.

Bring your dog and test their obedience and agility and enter them into the fun dog show.

Demonstrations from Guide Dogs, Dogs for the Disabled and Police Dogs, a chance to chat with the people from Medical Detection Dogs and Hearing Dogs. Vets on hand to give advice about your pets. Refreshments available.

Parade of Pets at 4.00pm - All Welcome

For further information contact Banbury Town Council
01295 250340 - info@banbury.gov.uk

Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Photography for beginners: Abingdon Camera Club is holding beginners' sessions at the Perry Room, Methodist Church Hall, Dorchester Avenue, off Appleford Drive, Abingdon. 8pm. £3.

Made in Oxon: Vale and Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. An exhibition of work – printmaking, sculpture, jewellery, papercuts, embroidery and mixed media – by the professional craftspeople who teach at Ardington School of Crafts, near Wantage. Most of the work will be on sale. Free. Until October 3. The museum is not open on Sundays. 01235 771447.

Creative play: Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. Creative movement games, with props and instruments, as well as listening to music, to provide a creative bonding session between parents and their babies/toddlers. 10.30am. £15 per five-week block. 01235 515144.

FRIDAY

Quiz night: This event at the Memorial Hall, High Street, Tetsworth, will raise money for the senior citizens' Christmas party. Teams of up to eight. No bar – please bring your own drinks and glasses. 7.30pm for 8pm start. £7.50 per person including supper – call 01844 281645 to book in advance.

Macmillan Coffee Morning: Event at Joblings Garage, Launton Road, Bicester, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. 11am. 01869 252255.

Beer festival: Held to mark Cask Ale Week at The Bull Inn, Launton. It runs until Monday and there will be live music on Saturday at 9pm with the blues and rock group The Vincent White Band. 12pm. 01869 248158.

SATURDAY

Drama wardrobe open day: Unit 25, Steventon Storage Depot, Hanney Road. Plan for your next production by browsing the Oxfordshire Drama Wardrobe Collection's range of theatrical costumes and accessories for hire, plus there will be some items for sale. Refreshments available. 10am. 07704 283983.

Great Macmillan Bake Off: St Nicolas Church, Market Place, Abingdon. 10am. Meet members of the new Abingdon, Didcot and Wantage Macmillan Fundraising Group over tea, coffee and cake. This is part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning run by Macmillan Cancer Support. The group is inviting people to bake a cake using the colour 'green' in their decoration, ingredients or both, for a competition. Entry to the contest is £1 via facebook.com/Macmillan.abingdon.didcot – and the winner will win a bag of goodies.

Craft and gift market: Leather goods, wooden goods, jewellery, handbags, jams and chutneys, candles, beauty products and cards are on sale at Thame Town Hall, High Street. 10am. Free.

Toy fair: A mixture of dealers offer a diverse cross-section of toys, games, figures, models and collectables from the past 100 years at the Didcot and Oxfordshire Toy Fair, at the Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot. Visitors are welcome to bring along items either to sell or be appraised by the team of experts. 10am. Entry is £2.50, under 16s free. 07708 385061.

Chadlington Apple Day: Apple pressing, tasting and identification, plus baking, games and competitions at Chadlington Memorial Hall, Chapel Road, Chadlington. There will also be live music, pony rides, and a bouncy castle. 12pm. Free entry. 07762 821989.

Antique and collectors market: Coins, medals, picture postcards, stamps, paper ephemera and antiques will be on sale at the. Methodist Church, Oxford Road, Kidlington. Refreshments will be available. 10am. Free admission. 01865 371494.

Oxjam fashion takeover: Bridal sale, fashion show, raffle, stalls. reception and bar, plus a performance by Dancemania at St Mary's Church, Church Green, Witney, with all proceeds to Oxfam. People of all ages, genders, shapes and sizes have volunteered to grace the runway, modelling a vibrant range of styled and inspired designs supplied by local businesses. 6.30pm. £6.50 in advance, £8 on the door. Tickets from Rapture in the Woolgate Centre, Witney, and wegottickets.com

Fieldpaths walk: A gently undulating seven-mile walk via the villages of Wardington, Chacombe, Williamscot and along the Oxford Canal, starting at the sports ground, Williamscot Road, Cropredy, ref. SP472465. Bring refreshments for an en-route break and there will be a pub at the end of walk. Assistance dogs only. 10am. 01295 810771.

Circular walk: Leisurely 10-mile route starting at the church in Milcombe, ref. SP410346. Bring a picnic lunch. Dogs on leads please. 10am. The contact is Lionel Howse of Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers, tel. 01869 601442.

Charity car boot sale: Carterton Lions will be holding their monthly sale at the town's recreation ground in Alvescot Road, at the rear of the Aldi store. Refreshments on sale. Free entry for shoppers. It costs £6 or £12 to hire a stall – there is no need to book a pitch. Gates open at 8am for stall holders, with access via the side of the Aldi supermarket. 01993 772241.

Paint, Pot, Print: This new exhibition at West Ox Arts Gallery, Market Square, Bampton, brings together the work of three artists – Felicity Cormack, Katherine Miller and Liz Teall – who work in very different media but are inspired by nature. Free. Until October 18. 01993 850137.

Table top and jumble sale: Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Old Didcot Road, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. Varied stalls, good parking and refreshments. 11am. 50p. Pitches available from £6 (tables supplied), with setting-up at 10am – to book, call 01491 833938 or visit www.donkeyrescue.org.uk

SUNDAY

Treasure hunt: Youngsters are invited to join Cap'n Jack Sparrow and his dastardly crew to hunt for the long-lost hidden treasure of Stonesfield. There will be a series of pirate-related challenges to complete, using a treasure map, plus refreshments for sale. The event, which is in aid of the Friends of Stonesfield School, for the outdoor play area, will also include a yard sale with stalls. 11am. Free entry. Stalls cost £7 to hire.

Autumn swap shop: Come and swap unwanted items for other things free at this event at the Wheat Barn, Cogges Manor Farm, Church Lane, Witney. There will be books, clothes, jewellery, CDs, DVDs, toys and games and electrical items (PAT test on site). The event is organised by Sustainable Witney, a local community action group that runs ongoing projects to help give Witney a sustainable future. 10am, goods can be dropped off from 9am. Free entry. 01993 772602.

Harvest fair: Sulgrave Manor, Manor Road, Sulgrave, near Banbury. Living history event with talks, demonstrations and live music plus activities to keep the children occupied including a garden trail. There will also be craft, gift and food stalls, bouncy castle, barbecue, cider tent and refreshments. 11am-4pm. Adults £6.50, children £4, under-fives free, families £18. 01295 760205.

Second Lease Walk: The group offers a choice of an 8.5-mile walk via Great Rollright and Long Compton, or a four-mile countryside route. Start at Woodford Way car park, Woodford Way, Witney, at 9.30am. 01993 774500.

Farmoor reservoir walks: There will be a 3.5-mile walk, going clockwise around the reservoir on the hard perimeter path, starting at 11am, and a four-mile route going anticlockwise around designated waymarked footpath at 1.30pm. Walks start in the Farmoor reservoir car park, ref. SP452062. Assistance dogs only. If doing both walks, bring a picnic lunch. £2 parking fee. 01865 553800.

MONDAY

Women at war: Speaker Sarah Paterson will explain how the First World War revolutionised the role of women in the workplace in a talk entitled 'What Great Grandma did in the First World War. It is inspired by the Imperial War Museum's Women's Work Collection. The talk at Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, is hosted by Oxfordshire Family History Society. The talk is at 8pm and the doors open at 7.15pm for computer and genealogy advice, tea and coffee, plus books for sale. Free admission. 01865 358151.

WEDNESDAY

Banbury Book Club: Church House, North Bar, Banbury. Discussion of Last Man in Tower by Aravind Adiga. Look for 'Meetup' sign on a table. 8pm. See meetup.com/Around-about-North-Oxon for details.

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Dance

THURSDAY

Sequence and ballroom dancing: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street. Teaching 7.30-8.45pm, practice session until 10.30pm. £2. 01993 811473.

Witney Folk Dance Group: Madley Park Hall, Northfield Farm Lane, Witney. Learn and enjoy English country dance. Beginners welcome. 8pm. £3 includes coffee and raffle. 01993 705961.

FRIDAY

Country and Western Dance: Dancing to the four-piece Country Law Band at Carterton Social Centre, Brownes Lane. 8.45pm. £6. 01993 850682.

TUESDAY

Square dancing: The village hall, The Green, Steventon. New dancers welcome for square and contra dancing. No experience or partner needed. First evening free, £3 thereafter 7.30pm. 01235 834778.

Theatre

THURSDAY

Another Man's Eden: Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon. Premiere of a play by Tony Green about 24 hours at a hospital at Camp Bastion, performed by Abingdon Drama Club. 7.30pm. Until Saturday. £10, concessions £8. For tickets, visit The Bookstore, 15 Bury Street, Abingdon, email tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk or call 0845 4636638.

The Kreutzer Sonata: The Theatre, Chipping Norton. Leo Tolstoy's novella about desire, death and Beethoven, adapted for the stage, is the story of a man who confesses to a terrible crime, holding the sonata responsible. The production features nationally renowned RSC stage actor Greg Hicks, pianist Hannah Watson, of LSO St Luke's, and violinist Justin Wilman, of Cirque du Soleil. Until Saturday. 7.45pm. £15, concessions £13. 01608 642350.

SATURDAY

Pocket Merchant: Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. The Propeller company presents a pocket-sized version of *Merchant of Venice* with an all-male cast bring Shakespeare's text alive with its engaging and often funny approach to the play. Afterwards, audience members are invited to question the actors about the play, acting and Shakespeare. 7.30pm. £15, concessions £13.50, under 16s £10. 01235 515144.

SUNDAY

Rosie's Magic Horse: Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. Peaceful Lion Productions presents play for children is based on the book by award-winning writer Russell Hoban. Little Rosie collects ice-lolly sticks and puts them in an old box and, at the stroke of midnight, magic and dreams collide and a horse gallops out of the box. 2pm. £8, concessions £6.50. 01235 515144.

Comedy

THURSDAY

Alex Horne: Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. In a show entitled *Monsieur Butterfly*, the award-winning comedian and three-time *Countdown* champion attempts to recreate something similar to the board game Mousetrap in just 60 minutes. 8pm. £16. 01235 515144.

SATURDAY

Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford: Four comics from the top of the UK and international circuit. 7.15pm. £14.50. 0871 472 0400.

Music

THURSDAY

Lunchtime recital: *Gypsies and Celts* – music and poetry – performed by Jubovski at High Street Methodist Church, Witney. 12.30pm. Free admission. 01993 702296.

FRIDAY

The Jeffery Brothers Band: This Canadian indie rock band will start their European tour in support of their latest album, at The Northcourt, Abingdon United, Northcourt Road. Their songs have been in films and television programmes including the *Sons of Anarchy* series. 7.30pm. £8 in advance, £10 on the door. 01235 856076.

Brize Singers: Annual concert with guests Yarnton Band at High Street Methodist Church, Witney. 7.30pm. £6. 01993 703032.

Rura: Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. Internationally renowned for their powerhouse mix of Highland pipes, fiddle, bodhran, guitar, whistle, flute and voice, Rura are one of the most exciting bands around. Their intricately arranged and lyrical instrumentals match haunting songcraft. 8pm. £15, concessions £13.50. 01235 515144.

Guns 2 Roses: The UK's longest-running Guns N Roses tribute act play at The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury. 8pm. £16.50. 01295 279002

SATURDAY

Band open afternoon: If you are interested in brass or would like to know more about Wantage Silver Band and meet the players and conductors, then you are invited along to its hall in Tugwell Field, Reading Road, Wantage. There will be a chance to have a go at different instruments and there will be demonstrations plus performances. 1pm. Free. 01235 763572.

St James Singers: Now in its 22nd season, the group is presenting, in song and readings, the anniversaries of three significant events in British history – the Magna Carta, Battle of Agincourt and the Battle of Waterloo – at the Centre for Reflection, Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold. 7.30pm. £12, £10 concessions, including glass of wine. 01235 850423.

Oxford Sinfonia: Plays *Myslivecek Overture*, Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante for winds K297b*, a Bach double violin concerto and *Haydn Symphony 44 'Trauer*, at the University Church of St Mary, High Street, Oxford. 8pm. £15, concessions £12. 07775 904626.

SUNDAY

Sounds Sublime: Church of The Immaculate Conception, The Causeway, Bicester. Akeman Voices will perform a concert featuring beautiful four-part harmonies of pieces such as Gibbons's *The Silver Swan*, Byrd's *The Nightingale* and local composer Paul Burke's *Lumen*, plus solo works including Elgar's *Sea Pictures* and Debussy's *Cathedrale Engloutie*. These will be interspersed with the poetry of AE Housman's *A Shropshire Lad*, which many English composers have set to music. The event will raise funds for the parish. 4pm. £12, accompanied under 18s free. 07722 131874.

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MISS YOU ALREADY (12A, 112 mins) A drama/comedy/romance starring Toni Collette, Drew Barrymore, Dominic Cooper, Paddy Considine, and Frances de la Tour. Director: Catherine Hardwicke

IN 1988, *Beaches*, starring Bette Midler and Barbara Hershey, was the weepie du jour for a generation of women, hankering for a bittersweet portrait of steadfast sisterly solidarity.

Bottom lips still quiver, more than 25 years later, to the first notes of Midler's soaring ballad, *Wind Beneath My Wings*.

It's been a long wait, but actress Morwenna Banks provides 21st-century gal pals with their own sobathon as the screenwriter of this occasionally foul-mouthed comedy drama, set in the shadow of breast cancer.

There are tears aplenty in Catherine Hardwicke's film, predominantly shed by lead actresses Toni Collette and Drew Barrymore as they rage against a cruel disease that affects one in eight women in the UK.

There is humour and pathos too, not least in one beautifully-handled scene between a wig maker (Frances de la Tour) and Collette's patient, as they select a new do to replace the flowing locks lost to chemotherapy.

Collette and Barrymore play best friends Milly and Jess, who met at school and have shared pivotal coming-of-age moments. Now 30-something and fabulous in radically different ways, the pals are braced for middle age.

Milly is a PR executive with a handsome husband (Dominic Cooper) and two cherubic offspring.

Bohemian earth mother Jess lives on a house boat with her oil rigger husband (Paddy Considine) and prepares for the arrival of their first child.

Milly is diagnosed with cancer and has to confront her mortality. As usual, Jess is by her side every painful step, including a double mastectomy that forces Milly to question her femininity.

Miss You Already is galvanised by believable screen chemistry shared by the two leads. Plotting is a tad haphazard and a protracted 250-mile trek to the Yorkshire Moors creates unnecessary conflict.

Thankfully, though, screenwriter Banks redeems herself with a well-judged final act that tugs our heartstrings without feeling like we're being shamelessly manipulated.

***LIFE* (15, 111 mins) A drama/romance with Robert Pattinson, Dane DeHaan, Joel Edgerton and Sir Ben Kingsley. Director: Anton Corbijn**

ONE moment in time, frozen on glossy photographic paper, can capture the spirit of an era, touch hearts divided by conflict and occasionally shape global opinionbut usually the person behind the camera, who was in the right place at the right time, goes unmentioned.

Directed by Anton Corbijn, the celebrated Dutch photographer who made a seamless transition to celluloid with the 2007 biopic *Control* about Joy Division, *Life* is a handsome drama about one of these unsung heroes.

In 1955 LA, photographer Dennis Stock (Robert Pattinson) struggles to fulfil work commitments and his responsibilities for a young son.

At a party, Stock encounters an awkward 24-year-old called James Dean (Dane DeHaan) propping up the bar.

The photographer proposes a photo essay in *Life* magazine, but the actor is reluctant.

Stock persists, capturing one of the most famous shots of the leading man – Dean hunkering down with a cigarette as he walks through a rain-sodden Times Square.

Life is blessed with a mesmerising performance from DeHaan as the star, who died seven months after his encounter with Stock.

Pattison is understated, but there is a pleasing rapport between the two actors as their characters wrestle with celebrity in an era of controlling studios.

The cinematography beautifully captures the fashions and fads of this smoke and booze-stained era. Corbijn directs at a pace that some audiences might find glacial, but considerable patience reaps decent emotional rewards.

Miss You Already, written by British comic Morwenna Banks, stars Drew Barrymore and Toni Collette, with support from Dominic Cooper and Paddy Considine as the husbands of two best friends encountering life-changing circumstances

Cake Bookworm

Grief Is The Thing With Feathers **by Max Porter, hardback by Faber & Faber, £10 (ebook £6.65)**
Like love, it's hard to describe grief without having known it. Max Porter is a rare wonder whose poetic characterisations in his debut novel show a deep understanding of human emotion.
Porter's *Grief Is A Thing With Feathers* tells one family's journey through grief in three first-person narratives; that of Dad, of The Boys and of grief anthropomorphised as a crow who lives with them.
The parties grapple with the idea of grief, as Crow visits the individuals in very different ways. The boys express confusion as they discover black calling-card feathers on their pillows. Their father feels his spiteful, incessant clawing and despairs as the bird mocks his sorrow.
Porter creates a wonderfully rich scene that feels as though you are peering through a neighbour's window. He adeptly examines the way we understand grief and deal with loss over time in a beautifully bittersweet manner. A stunning examination of mourning, this is a difficult yet compelling read.

The Moth Catcher **by Ann Cleeves, hardback by Macmillan, £16.99 (ebook £6.59)**
Fat, middle-aged detective Vera Stanhope seems an unlikely heroine. But the dishevelled sleuth has won millions of fans through Ann Cleeves's gritty crime thrillers, and the TV adaptation starring Brenda Blethyn. In the seventh book, Vera is investigating a double murder in Northumberland. The victims make an unlikely pair, with one a graduate and the other an older "grey man". There are no gimmicky plot devices here as Cleeves shows she is the master of innuendo, smooth prose and deeply drawn characters. If there is a successor to Ruth Rendell's alter-ego Barbara Vine, it must surely be Ann Cleeves.

Humans Are Underrated: What High Achievers Know That Brilliant Machines Never Will **by Geoff Colvin, hardback by Nicolas Brealey, £18 (ebook £11.15)**
Despite the reassuring title, the first chapters present a bleak picture of the future for humans in the world of work. Geoff Colvin, a senior editor at *Fortune* magazine and author of *Talent Is Overrated*, demonstrates that the quickening pace of technological progress means workers who thought their jobs could never be replaced, could find they have reason to feel threatened by the rapid advance of infotech – he refers to gardeners and lawyers, cooks and managers.
It is an insightful exploration of the uniquely human qualities that should ensure there's always a place for humanity in business. Inspirational case studies show how to get the best out of people by tapping into particularly human skills.

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Mark Bell scored a hat-trick in Banbury's 8-0 win over Bashley

Banbury are history boys

Clinical Puritans thump sorry Bashley 8-0

MARK Bell scored a 14-minute hat-trick as Banbury United recorded their biggest league victory for 50 years when they thrashed Bashley 8-0 in Evo-Stik Southern League Division 1 South & West.

The Puritans moved up to seventh in the table after inflicting a ninth defeat of the season on basement side Bashley, who have conceded 47 goals this campaign.

There was no hint of the massacre to follow in a goalless first 25 minutes.

But once Callum White knocked in the first Banbury goal after Bell's initial shot was saved by Nic Jones, the floodgates opened.

Bell opened his account in the 30th minute from the edge of the area and soon made it 3-0 when he curled a 25-yard free-kick into the top corner.

On 44 minutes, he completed his hat-trick with a low drive.

There was even time for Duran Martin to shoot home from 25 yards to make it 5-0 at half-time.

Zac McEachran made it six on 54 minutes after a neat interchange with Bell, and just before the hour mark Louis Joyce netted from close range.

Nic Evangelinos, playing in his last game before going back to university, completed the rout with ten minutes remaining, lobbing Jones from 12 yards after latching on to Duran Martin's through ball.

The Puritans face Bishops Cleeve at the Spencer Stadium on Saturday looking to stretch their unbeaten run to four games.

Banbury Utd: Harding, White, Steedman, Martin, Wise, Johnson (Cox 76), Evangelinos, Stanbridge, Joyce, Howards (McEachran 46), Bell (Kalakoutis 68). Sub not used: Partner.

Attendance: 203.

Bulls secure second win in fine style

BANBURY secured their second bonus-point home win of the season with a commanding 41-14 victory over Barkers Butts in Midlands 2 West (South).

Bulls found themselves 20-0 up at half-time, thanks to tries from scrum half Josh Deegan and prop Stevie Nutt.

Alex Stevenson converted both scores and also kicked two penalties as Banbury controlled the opening 40 minutes.

Butts got on the scoreboard with a converted try, before Joe Mills responded for Bulls.

Stevenson added the extras for 27-7.

A lapse in concentration led to the visitors crashing over for a converted score but, with the game opening up, Bulls secured the bonus point.

Jed Boyle hacked through to score and Stevenson added the extras to make it 34-14.

Sean Bannister then crossed for a converted try.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

Don't break promises you've made or it will come back on you tenfold. You gave off such a sincere attitude last week that close ones will have gone out of their way to accommodate you and to believe in you. A great weekend for romance which could see many of you rams acting in ways which others will be talking about for some time to come. Ring now for more explosive details.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Although you feel that work is getting on top of you, it is actually from this week that your career gets somewhat easier than it has been over the last few months. You've proved yourself Taurus, even if you don't think you have and comments you get over the coming days will soon confirm this fact. A shock split in your inner circle gives you reason to question what you want in love. Ring now so I can help you.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Your career takes a more interesting turn and you no longer feel the need to have to do what is expected of you, but you're willing to take life where the mood takes you. Luckily for you, Mercury supports you in your adventure and you start to see new ways to make money and enjoy what you do as a living. Ring now to hear how Uranus promises answers through your dreams.

0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Your home is more important to you than most signs and since your stability seems to have been threatened in some way, it's not surprising that you've been feeling insecure. This week you get news that much of what you heard was gossip and talk. Learn to go to the source next time! Ring me so we can get your priorities in order.

0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Careful that you don't talk with disrespect to those you work with. The positions of your colleagues will be changing soon and those below you could soon be above you. Time spent with old friends helps you to fill in some important blanks and also helps you find peace with a relationship that no longer is. Ring now to hear which new relationships lie ahead.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You seem to be missing someone Virgo, but a stubborn frame of mind is stopping you from making contact. Make sure that you're not acting for effect, but that you're thinking and feeling from the heart. What you say and do this week can affect your whole future and not just the weeks ahead. Give me a ring to hear why it's worth trying again in areas you've previously failed at.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Your family mean more to you than you've recently been willing to admit. Try to take time out of your week to let them know this Libra, as two signs in particular are feeling rejected and neglected. Contracts filled in and signed at this time pave the way for a better life for you and your close ones. Ring now to hear why it's worth attempting to give up any bad habits before this month is over.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Venus shines the spotlight on your personal life and you start to see with ease who makes you happy and who is constantly dragging you down. You no longer put up with the negative, but you focus only on those who can bring the positive into your life. Check your calendar. It seems you may forget an event you need to attend. Ring to hear why you can afford to be more social now.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

The home comes under the spotlight and you may end up having to pay out money for something which you thought you'd sorted out months ago. Don't cut corners, but do it properly this time and you won't have to pay out again. Your element of fire could see you revealing other's secrets, but remember what they say about people in glass houses! Ring now for your stars in full.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Changes which you made are finally starting to show signs of working in your favour and you may even see difficult faces saying thank you for your efforts and sacrifices. Fellow Capricorns are worth joining forces with in business as with a united front you'll be able to sail past the competition. Ring now to hear how your stars also offer a surprise romantically.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

The stars are placing you in a very energetic mood and the people that you thought you could not impress last week will now be like putty in your hands. Use the coming seven days to tackle the very issues you've been avoiding. You can make headway in ways you'd not dreamt possible. Phone calls and texts do much to boost your self esteem this weekend. Ring now for details.

0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

As a wise mood besets you. You start to make decisions with your long term interests at heart instead of just your short term desires. The person who let you down last week will do so again unless you draw a line and put a distance between you. Where is that self esteem I know you have in buckets? Get it back for Friday and you'll be in for a very interesting romantic encounter. Ring now for answers.

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- Creating sales leads from new, repeat and lapsed customers and work lists of businesses with a propensity to buy advertising in our publications, print and digital.
- Assist the Management team in setting targets for customer spend and measuring delivery against those targets. Assisting Management in setting stretch targets and bonus targets and other KPI's and providing a day to day management against these measures. Identifying efficiencies to improve the sales processes.

You will need the following skills and experience:

- Excellent communication and presenting skills
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In brief

- **LUXURY car maker Bentley has broken new ground with the unveiling of its first SUV, the Bentayga, which aims to satisfy demand for equally high standards of prestige and comfort in a more practical and capable SUV format. Using a new version of its turbocharged W12 petrol engine, Bentley claims the Bentayga is already the world's fastest SUV; with 600bhp and 663lb.ft of torque it can rocket to 62mph in only 4.1 seconds and reach 187mph. The cabin is designed to be the world's finest. It has the option of an 'event seat', which folds out from the boot to give a bench for two. Its 48v power system operates an electronic ride control, delivering a smooth journey. Sales will start in early 2016. Prices are expected to start at £130,000.**
- **UK drivers wait until they are told they need new tyres before changing worn ones. A survey shows 3.6 million drivers only get new tyres when the tread fails the MOT. Worn tyres require 40% more stopping distance from 50mph in dry conditions, which is equivalent to eight car lengths. This increases even more on wet roads.**

The new MX-5 is a super slimmer

Auto facts

Model: Mazda MX-5 2.0 Sport Nav, from £23,295
Engine: 2.0-litre four-cylinder petrol producing 158bhp and 148lb/ft
Transmission: six-speed manual driving the rear wheels
Performance: top speed 133mph, 0-62mph in 7.3 seconds
Fuel Economy: 40.9mpg
Emissions: 161g/km

By Our Reporter
news@nqo.com

THERE might be limited leg room, but the Mazda MX-5 is a great value sports car.

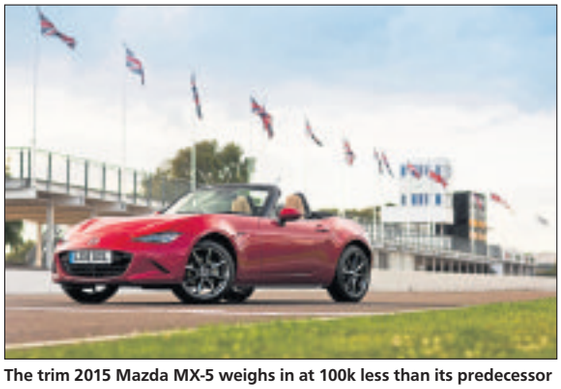
Light weight: it's the holy grail of sports car design. Weighing 100kg less than the old one, the fourth-generation MX-5 is all-new from the wheel nuts to the folding fabric roof, and there are new 'SkyActiv' engines of 1.5 and 2.0 litres.

Even the 1.5 has 129bhp, and in a car that weighs as little as 975kg without the driver, the signs are promising. To be fair, the little Mazda's visual appeal depends on the angle from which you're looking.

At one or two angles the bonnet looks odd, but from most viewpoints it's a fantastic looking thing – lithe and small, tightly-packaged around a chassis no larger than that of its great-grandfather.

The back lights are a mix of old BMW Z4 and new Jaguar F-Type, but the light signature at night is unmistakably unique. LED headlights are standard on every model to allow for the incredibly narrow, knife-sharp design.

It's shorter than before, so unsurprisingly the boot is smaller.



The trim 2015 Mazda MX-5 weighs in at 100k less than its predecessor

But it's more evenly-shaped than before and it's deeper, with a narrower rectangular recess at the bottom to stop smaller bags moving too much.

The cabin is small and six-footers may feel cramped, particularly people with long legs. The lack of reach adjustment on the steering column is a niggle but for a 177cm-tall man, such as me, the driving position is pretty good anyway.

No other sports car feels so light, so responsive to throttle inputs through corners or so downright hop-skip-jump happy.

Bilstein dampers on this 2.0 Sport model keep the tyres on the Tarmac without sagging in the corners, so a briskly-driven MX-5 flows beautifully over and along the road, rather than crashing through it.

It's so confidence-inspiring you'll laugh out loud.

At a little over £20,000, it's about the best-value proper sports car on the market. And it comes with a soft-top.

The jump to Sport, which brings loads of extra kit, is a hefty £2,600. This is as good a car to drive as you'll find below £50,000, and you won't lose your licence while enjoying it.

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Autumn Classic & Fringe

Focus on Japan's little post-war cars

HUNDREDS of classic vehicles as well as some classics of the future, will reunite at the nostalgic Autumn Classic & Fringe at the Heritage Motor Centre on Sunday.

This year's centrepiece display at the event, which runs from 10am-5pm, will be Kei Kars in the Park who are attending for the first time. Kei cars are light micro machines born from the necessity to boost post-war Japanese vehicle production without detrimental effect to the increasing population and diminishing physical space.

The early 1990s saw the production of the Honda Beat, Suzuki Cappuccino, Daihatsu Move, Mira and Midget.

Each of the major Japanese vehicle manufacturers offered a wide variety of Kei cars including Mazda under the name Autozam. The majority of Kei cars in the UK fall into the post-90s regulations that limited engine sizes to a maximum of 660cc and power to 64bhp. Other clubs attending the event include the Metropolitan Owners Club and Peugeot 406 Coupe Club UK.

Entry into the HMC grounds is free and those arriving in a qualifying vehicle can visit the museum for £5 per person.

Drivers and passengers can also join in with the Autumn Cream Tea Run for a scenic drive, approximately 63 miles long following the Stour Tour and taking in some north Cotswolds scenery including the village of Chipping Campden. The run culminates in a delicious cream tea at the HMC 'Junction 12 Café. The cost is £22 per car, if booked in advance (driver & passenger) which includes a rally plaque for the car, entry to the museum and a cream tea for two people. Additional passengers cost £11 per person. The run starts at 10.15am.

For information, contact John Bishop, clubs, groups and rallies senior co-ordinator, on 01926 645032 or email to clubs@heritage-motor-centre.co.uk.

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VAUXHALL

Official GovernmentTest Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO2 emissions: 373 - 88g/km# Cost Price is on New Vauxhalls that can be taxed and registered by the 30th September 2015. 5 yrs 0% is on most new Vauxhalls, not available on the Meriva Life. Finance is subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Finance supplied by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Offer will apply to private individuals. Total amount payable for the Adam Jam is £11,239, total amount payable on the Corsa Energy is £11,529, total amount payable on the Mokka Exclusiv is £17,789. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

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